

## REPORT.

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*The Committee on the Colored Population of Maryland, submit the following Report, and the accompanying Bill.*

The Colored Population of Maryland, is divided into the slave and free.

The relations of the former have been so long established and are so thoroughly understood, that legislation is rarely necessary in regard to it: nor is there, now, anything concerning it that requires the especial notice of the committee.

On the other hand, the free colored population, including, as well persons born free, as emancipated slaves, has been made, again and again, the subject of legislative action; and, at this time, circumstances give to all matters connected with it, a more than ordinary interest.

There are more free colored persons in Maryland, than in any other State of the Union; the number, according to the census of 1850, being 74,723. In the city of Baltimore, there are 25,475. Anne Arundel contains 4,602, which is the largest number in any one county; the smallest number being in Allegany county, where there are 412.

At the first census, of 1790, the entire free colored population of Maryland, was but 8043, and the white population 208,649. The present white population being 417,943, it will be observed, that, while the free colored population has increased *ninefold*, the white population has only *doubled*, in the last sixty years.

The entire colored population, slave and free, of the State, in 1790, was 111,079, of which 103,034 were slaves. The entire colored population, in 1850, was 164,445, of which 90,368 were slaves. The free colored had increased, in the sixty years, 66,680, the slaves had diminished 12,668. In 1810, the slaves numbered 111,502; which was the largest number ever held, at one time, in Maryland.

From these figures it will be noted, that the increase of the aggregate of the entire colored population has been owing, entirely, to the increase of the free portion of it, which has been, uninterruptedly going on, at almost an uniform rate, while the slaves have decreased, by 12,668, since the first census.